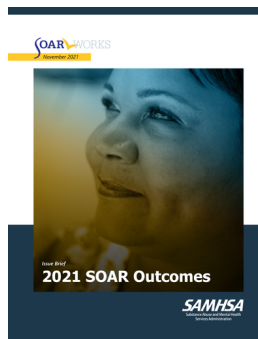


2021 SAMHSA SOAR December eNews

Celebrate the SAMHSA SOAR 2021 Superstars!

We celebrate everyone who contributes to the impact of SOAR programs across the country, but we want to give a special shout-out to some SOAR Super Stars! In FY2021, **Montana** increased both the number of applications submitted and its approval rate. **Minnesota** had a significant increase in capacity. And in a year where average days to decision increased nationally, **Oklahoma** and **Oregon** saw a decrease! **Florida** and **Colorado** submitted quality child Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applications, and **California** had a large number of successful appeals!

Read more about successful collaborations; progress on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and a special success story in the 2021 SOAR Outcomes Issue Brief!



2021 SOAR Outcomes Issue Brief

[Download the Issue Brief](#)

DECEMBER 21 IS

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Honoring Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center stands in solidarity with the National Consumer Advisory Board, the National Coalition for the Homeless, and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council to recognize the 30th Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, which will take place December 21, 2021. We also encourage our SOAR partners and constituents to recognize, organize, or participate in events related to this day. This is a day set aside for us to remember, but there is no better way to truly honor the lives lost than to pursue the goal of the eradication of homelessness through the work that we do daily. While we reflect on the lives lived and lost in homelessness, let's continue to strengthen our commitment to combat these tragedies.

Learn why we remember this day each year by viewing the [Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Public Statement and Advocacy Agenda](#). For more on how to get involved, visit the [Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Event Page](#) from the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Check out these additional resources for more information:

- [SAMHSA's page on Homeless Persons' Memorial Day](#)
- [The National Coalition for the Homeless website](#)
- [The National Health Care for the Homeless Council website](#)



See How SOAR Works

My First SOAR Application for a Child

Sandy Mishkin, a SOAR Specialist in New Mexico, shares her experience submitting her first SOAR-assisted SSI application for a child:

I am a behavioral health registered nurse who has been working with adults with mental illness in the community since 1980 in various roles, including as a case manager. In 2016, I became certified to submit SOAR applications for adults, and in 2020 I further became certified to submit SOAR applications for children. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, it was not until 2021, 1 year later, that I attempted my first SOAR-assisted child SSI application.

Before beginning the application, I reviewed my notes and printouts from the online course. I called my SAMHSA SOAR TA Center Liaison with many questions, and my local SOAR liaison at the Social Security Administration (SSA) to confirm the process for initiating a child application. Finally, I felt ready to begin!

Keep Reading

SOAR Success in California

Michele Kamphuis from Riverside University Health System in San Jacinto, California, wrote in to share this SOAR success story:



My client, "Bobby Joe," was experiencing homelessness and struggling with physical and mental health issues. I started working with Bobby to get his Medical Summary Report together, which was essential in getting approved. After submitting the initial application, he was approved within 6 months and was able to pay for shared living—he even bought a car! My advice to other SOAR practitioners would be to contact the Disability Determination Services (DDS) examiner directly and build a relationship with them, then follow up to make sure they have everything they need.

"Sharing Our Successes stories are edited for brevity and clarity. All client names have been changed to protect anonymity."

Events

[SOARing Over Lunch Conference Call](#)

December 21, 2021, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Add SOARing Over Lunch to Your Calendar

Application Tip! Collecting Medical Records

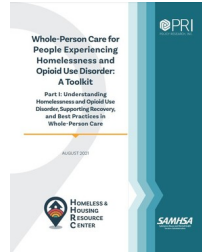
Collecting medical records is a critical component of the SOAR process! As SOAR caseworkers, we work hard to collect the applicant's medical records to ensure that DDS has a complete picture of the applicant's medical history. First, you want to make a list of all the applicant's treatment providers. It may be helpful to keep track of them on the [Medical Records Request Tracking Worksheet](#)(DOC). Each records request will include a signed [SSA-827](#)(PDF), a customized [Medical Records Request Cover Letter](#)(DOC), and your agency's Release of Information. These three documents combined form a compound release and enable you to share the medical records with SSA and DDS. Once you have sent the requests to the treatment providers, be sure to follow up regularly!

SSA Updates

[New Publication from SAMHSA—Treatment Improvement Protocol](#)

[33: Treatment for Stimulant Use Disorders](#)

This updated document reviews what is known about treating the medical, psychiatric, and SUD-related problems associated with the use of cocaine and methamphetamine, as well as the misuse of prescription stimulants. The TIP offers recommendations on treatment approaches and maximizing treatment engagement and retention, and strategies for initiating and maintaining abstinence.



[New Resource from SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center](#)

The *Whole-Person Care for People Experiencing Homelessness and Opioid Use Disorder Toolkit* provides a framework for supporting recovery and housing stability. Part I of the toolkit, provides an introduction to homelessness, opioid use disorder, and evidence-based recovery practices, such as trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, eliminating stigma, and harm reduction. The toolkit is available in both English and Spanish.

SOAR Jobs



- **Colorado:** Bayaud Enterprises is seeking a full-time benefits navigator to provide SOAR-associated services in Denver, Colorado.
- **Illinois:** Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare is seeking a full-time SOAR specialist to provide client-centered, strengths-based, and trauma-informed services to clients in Chicago, Illinois.
- **Nebraska:** Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska is seeking a full-time SOAR case manager to assist individuals in applying for Social Security disability benefits in Gering, Nebraska.
- **Texas:** IntegralCare is seeking a full-time SOAR specialist based in Austin, Texas.

Learn more about these positions on the [SOARWorks website](#). Do you have a job posting you would like to share with the SOAR community? Please submit it to the [SAMHSA SOAR TA Center](#)!

More from SOAR



Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is sponsored by SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Disclaimer: The SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center is sending this eNews with support from SAMHSA, HHS. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of HHS or SAMHSA.

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